



**1029th meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**

8:00PM Wednesday, December 26, 2001

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval St. at 38th Ave. San Francisco

Holiday Party

**Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Box 194271 San Francisco, CA 94119-4271
www.pcns.org**

Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

This month we invite the San Francisco Coin Club to join us in a potluck Holiday party. We will also hold a regular meeting. The principal item of business will be the election of the PCNS officers. As per the PCNS By-laws, you must be present to vote. Nominated to serve for 2002, are

Board of Governors

Phil Nordin

Mark Wm Clark

Jack Free

Secretary

Herb Miles

Treasurer

Steve Huston

Vice President

Sarah Nordin

President

Michael Wehner

Jerry Schimmel, PCNS Fellow, gave us a rousing talk at the November meeting on the GAR or Grand Army of the Republic, an organization founded to honor and assist union Civil War veterans. Jerry exhibited numerous badges, medals, and the like as an adjunct to his talk.

The organization began on April 4, 1866 when it was formally chartered but was open to Union veterans only since the United Confederate Veterans was formed to care for southern veterans. Procedures, rules, chapters, posts, etc were modeled after Masonic orders which had existed for hundreds of years.

The GAR would hold "encampments" or annual meetings around the country and there were many "posts" throughout the Midwest and Eastern part of the United States. The first encampment was held in Springfield, Illinois in 1866 and the first national encampment occurred in Indianapolis that same

year. Jerry noted that two encampments even occurred in San Francisco, 1886 and 1903, far from the battlefields of the Civil War.

On viewing the physical and mental devastation of the war, military leaders foresaw a need to help those physically or emotionally wounded return as productive citizens and founded the organization to help veterans with work, readjustment, and medical care subsequent to the war. As a result, soldier's homes and assistance agencies were formed by the GAR to help those wounded in mind or body.

Allied organizations such as the Women's Relief Corps and the Women's GAR also originated after the Civil War and performed similar functions.

This organization slowly declined in membership and relevance over the years until it held its final encampment in 1949 and the last GAR member died at age 101 in 1956.

Raffle

Seven prizes that raised \$34.00 went to:

- *Gordon Donnell* took home A book; *The Jewel City* by Ben Macomber, John H. Williams publisher, 1915, 75 illustrations, etc
 - *Mark Wm Clark* won the 1998 Denver Die & Coin Set.
 - *Larry Reppeteau* was lucky to get a large Bronze Portuguese medal generously donated by *Jerry Schimmel*.
 - *Frank Strazzarino* won the 6th Edition of Rulau's Hard Times Tokens **and** a token for research.
 - *Elliot Wehner* won a Portuguese token, a book and another token also donated by Jerry.
-

Exhibits

Herb Miles brought a Liberian "Millenium" \$20.00 silver piece that was enameled in a multicolored fashion.

Paul Holtzman brought a "not listed" bird coin from Bermuda featuring a Long-tailed Tropic Bird.

Frank Strazzarino brought several newspaper articles, one mentioned that the San Francisco Mint will be refurbished for mixed use, the other noted that the US Mint has laid off hundreds of employees recently with the downturn in the economy meaning that fewer coins will be minted. Frank also brought a photo of the World Trade Center which he had taken a year or two ago.

Gordon Donnell exhibited a Frank Gasparro coin set containing the coins he had designed including the Lincoln Cent Memorial reverse, the obverse and reverse of the Ike Dollar and other coins he sculpted as chief mint engraver. Gordon also brought a San Francisco Cable Car medal he recently acquired and he brought his own San Quentin bus token.

Elliot Wehner exhibited a silver Jefferson commemorative \$1.00 won at the ANA Young Numismatists' auction.

Michael Wehner brought two San Francisco related items, a soldiers/sailors medal honoring those "warrior sons" returning from World War I and a large PPIE medal featuring the Tower of Jewels on obverse and the Horticultural Palace on reverse.

Editor's note.

Illness delayed preparation of last month's Bulletin. I apologize if it arrived late.